The Librarian Tribunal Comes to Trolberg: Kaisa, Insidious Book Censors, and What Matters

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The Librarian Tribunal Comes to Trolberg: Kaisa, Insidious Book Censors, and What Matters

by lefemmerouge

Summary

Trolberg is beset with crisis. One man, Mr. Goodbody, calls for: the beloved librarian (Kaisa) to be fired, parents to oversee the library's collections, and privatization of the library itself. He is supported by his two friends and represented by a seasoned blue-haired corporate lawyer. A redhead named Candace Flynn represents the city of Trolberg, and Kaisa herself, aiming to contest Mr. Goodbody's charges. Citizens have rallied to the defense of Kaisa and the library, describing Mr. Goodbody's claims as absolute garbage. The different conceptions of free expression, citizenship, and what the library means to the community will come to a head in the courtroom, with the Librarian Tribunal to settle this dispute. None other than the bella donna herself, Asako Shibasaki, is presiding, with a jury of six librarians reviewing the evidence. Will they give a fair verdict or will they end up stoking anger, as they did in Gotham all that time ago? You'll have to read to find out...

Notes

Hey everyone! It's been over a year since my last part of this series came out. When sharing the first part of this series on one site, a user described it as "dystopian," I noted that the Librarian Tribunal aims to protect patrons, although it tends to side with librarians more than patrons. This fic will expand on that with a completely different case, which I hadn't originally planned on, but am glad to write, with the growing push for book bans / book censorship across the U.S., and globally. I originally planned on publishing this before November 18, when the draft ended. However, since I had four fics coming out in November, I decided to postpone this fic until now, giving me more time to work on it.

For those reading this fic, ten fandoms are listed. However, the main fandoms for this fic are as follows: Hilda (Kaisa), Library War (Asako Shibasaki), The Simpsons (Blue-Haired Lawyer), and Phineas and Ferb (Candace Flynn). So, please keep that in mind. Like all my fics, this can be read fandom-blind, but if you know, some or all of these fandoms, and particularly characters like Kaisa and Candace Flynn, that will certainly make the fic that much more enjoyable.

As it so happened, I was writing for Flufftober this year on my other account and had two fics about two Library War characters, specifically Iku Kasahara and Asako Shibasaki. The latter is a character in this fic, so I tied those fics into this one, so they are all part of the same universe! I plan to keep writing this series, featuring different people from Library War every time as judges (but not necessarily jurors), so as to give that fandom more visibility. I have

linked those fics within this one and added them as inspirations. If you want to read more background about the queerplatonic relationship between Iku and Asako, I highly recommend reading the two fics "A First Time for Everything?: Asako, Iko, and Their Affections" and "Iku's Nervousness, Asako's Joy, and a Date-Not-Date in Kantō."

On 10/20/25, I changed the title from "The Librarian Tribunal Comes to Trolberg: Kaisa the Librarian Faces the Book Banners" to the current title, as it seemed much more fitting. I went through a couple other iterations of other possible titles, and this seemed like the best one.

Like my other fics, this will be cross-posted on Squidge World, Quotev, and Wattpad (where it is entitled "Kaisa, Insidious Book Censors, and What Matters"), along with on Asianfanfiction. The versions on Quotev, Asian Fanfiction, and Wattpad are listed as the second chapter of a fic entitled "Tales of the Librarian Tribunal."

See the end of the work for more notes

- Inspired by Iku's Nervousness, Asako's Joy, and a Date-Not-Date in Kantō by lefemmerouge2
- Inspired by A First Time for Everything?: Asako, Iko, and Their Affections by lefemmerouge2
- Inspired by Diana, Tatsu, and the Metropolis Librarian by lefemmerouge
- Inspired by Gunderson V. Burns by Anonymous
- Inspired by Someone Understands Me by MistyBeethoven
- Inspired by Of Banning Books And Steamy Novels by Lonesome_Yuto
- Inspired by Trench Mouth by antioedipus
- Inspired by [Restricted Work] by Permanent_Ink
- Inspired by You're Wrong About These Common Myths About Book Ban: Book Censorship News, March 22, 2024 by Kelly Jensen (for Book Riot)
- Inspired by A Censorship Language Primer: Book Censorship News, June 30, 2023 by Kelly Jensen (for Book Riot)
- Inspired by How to Talk About Book Bans With Friends, Library Patrons, and More: Book Censorship News, February 17, 2023 by Kelly Jensen (for Book Riot)
- Inspired by About by Texas Freedom to Read Project
- Inspired by About by Florida Freedom to Read Project
- Inspired by About Us by Unite Against Book Bans
- Inspired by 'State-driven censorship': new wave of book bans hits Florida school districts by Olivia Empson (for The Guardian)
- Inspired by Theft or civil disobedience? by Jack Brammer (for the Kentucky Lantern)

A twenty-two-year-old woman dressed in a blue professional suit approached the bench, covered by greenish robes. Her gavel hit the table authoritatively. She was in a queerplatonic relationship with her friend and roommate, Iku. After some consternation, she agreed to kiss her on the cheek *every morning* as a way of showing her affection, appreciation, and compassion for, with Iku doing the same. They had even gone on a date-not-date in Kantō, a region of Japan which included Tokyo, to prepare Iku for dating a man she liked. Iku had previously adjudicated a case brought against Elbykrmi D. Krsboo in Gotham for excessive shushing and being generally hostile to two plaintiffs, Diana Prince and Tatsu Yamashiro, leading to emotional distress, especially after they were expelled from the library building. Although the librarian had won the case, the Librarian Tribunal had been questioned and condemned as "biased."

Asako's long black hair shined, framing both sides of her beautiful face. Her voice boomed across the room. "The Librarian Tribunal is in session. Today we hear the case of *The People of Trolberg v. Trolberg Public Library*." As a Chief Librarian, and a military intelligence informant, she was skilled at information gathering. She had agreed to take on this case because it was important to her as a woman dedicated to preserving freedom of expression. Although she detested book banning with every bone in her body, she wanted to remain impartial.

As member of Library Task Force, and the Library Task Force, she often put herself in the line of fire to protect information. For this trial, she was serving as a judge for the World Librarians Accountability Board's Librarian Tribunal. This board aimed to ensure that libraries and librarians treated citizens fairly. Cases could be filed about abuse and would be screened for validity, examined by an expert team, then brought before the tribunal. Each year, only a small percentage of the cases submitted were ruled upon. The case was likely chosen because the tribunal wanted to make a statement. After all, each jury member was a credentialed librarian. Why would they rule in favor of book banning?

This case was held in the Trolberg city courthouse. As a public trial, it could be watched virtually, or in person. Those who filed the case had to prove beyond the preponderance of evidence that there was more than a fifty percent chance that their claims were true. The judge and jury could award damages, transfer property, prohibit actions with an injunction, or send those charged to the Grand Library for "reform." The latter could involve those charged being sentenced to a book world to live out the rest of their lives. Each side in trials such as this had their own lawyers to make their case and convince the jury they were correct.

Asako knew this case would be challenging. She expected that the plaintiffs, helmed by a man with slicked back blue hair and remained cold, professional, and unemotional, would bring good witnesses, as would the defense. Plaintiff's lawyer, respected among lawyers as one of the best in the business, stared at Asako as she asked "Are you ready to proceed with your opening statement, counselor?" "Yes, your honor," he replied. He wore a perfectly tailored gray suit with black dress shoes, glasses, and a red tie. He had a stern look on his pasty pink face. He had chosen to make an example out of Trolberg, to win no matter what, just as he had won cases for Mr. Burns, Fat Tony, Sideshow Bob, and others in Springfield

time and again. While his name didn't stick, his demeanor certainly did. Asako then instructed him. "Mr. Rohn, please continue with your opening statement."

Intently looking at the jury, he cleared his throat. This would be tough considering the composition of the jury, all of whom were librarians. Its foreperson was a brown-skinned woman wearing a brown blouse, pearl necklace, and light red scarf to accompany her professional attire. She was none other than Clara Rhone, the chief librarian of the library in the bowels of the Wayne, an apartment building located in downtown New York City.

Speaking in a nasal voice, with an accent from the State of New York, he laid out his argument:

> Your honor, in the case before this tribunal, we charge the librarian of the Trolberg Public Library, Miss Kaisa, with violating citizen's rights to read. Books of objectionable nature should not be kept in a public library that my clients pay taxes for. They feel that the library is promoting a certain agenda and excluding their viewpoints. As such, we will prove, as you will hear today, that Miss Kaisa's actions toward the clients were uncalled for and need to be condemned, leaning to mental anguish. We call for the harshest possible punishment available through this tribunal and restoring citizens' rights to libraries, away from the hands of those trying to marginalize views in society they find reactionary.

Such an argument seemed far-fetched. Even so, this lawyer wanted to go forward with it anyway.

Asako nodded. She wanted to hear from the other side. This was a key in order to ensure that this case was fairly judged.

"Thank you, Mr. Rohn. You may be seated. I would like to hear from the Defense. Ms. Flynn, are you ready to give an opening statement?"

The redheaded woman, dressed to the nines in a snazzy, tight, and attractive suit, smiled. She was ready. Candace was a promising criminal lawyer. She had gained good practice defending people in Danville. One of her good friends, or perhaps more than a friend, had told her about this case. She had taken a red-eye flight to Trolberg in order to gather evidence and build her case. She hoped her argument would win the day. She began her statement, looking at the jury, especially connecting with the fact that some of them were her age, whether the one Japanese woman with a pretty face, a nice body, and with a plaid skirt, the sweet and patient girl with brownish-green hair, or the girl with long blond hair and a nice smile. The other jury members were mostly older women, including the foreperson, and one was an older man. Her voice loudly echoed through the room:

> Your honor, the City of Trolberg contests Mr. Rohn's charges. Miss Kaisa did not violate the right of city residents to read. 'Objectionable' books were not kept in the public library. The library is not promoting a specific agenda which excluded certain views. We will prove today that the plaintiffs violated stated and posted library rules, inconveniencing citizens, that the city's library is a place that all are welcome, with all having a right to read, and that Mr. Rohn's charges are unfounded. We call for all charges against Miss Kaisa to be dismissed.

Asako listened to Candace as carefully as she had listened to Mr. Rohn. This could be tough. She knew it would a challenge for the plaintiffs to prove their charges. "Thank you, counselor. You may be seated."

Turning to Mr. Rohn, she continued her remarks. "The plaintiffs' lawyer can now proceed." With a devious smile on his face, he looked at the judge with lifeless eyes. This would be a challenge, but nothing he hadn't done before. He'd crush that *sorry excuse* of a lawyer, as he saw her, who represented the defense. He wanted to show her that only those who knew what they were doing should be there. *No posers*.

"Thank you, your honor." He looked into the audience, standing up from where he had been sitting, at the plaintiffs' table, with the three defendants all dressed in snazzy suits. He then walked toward the jury box. "I would like to call Mr. Goodbody to the stand." He was one of those who had pushed to charge the librarian. He had led the charge to have the library remove certain books he and his friends thought were 'objectionable' and 'obscene.' He would be a key witness for his case against Kaisa.

Mr. Goodbody cautiously pushed in his chair, stood up, and proceeded to walk from behind the plaintiffs' table to the podium. The bailiff stared at him. She had to ensure everyone's testimony was sworn, otherwise this would be a waste of time. "Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, under penalties and pains of perjury?" she asked. The man nodded and then responded, "I affirm and declare that my testimony today will be truthful."

He sat down in the witness chair. Mr. Rohn approached and soon began the questioning. "Mr. Goodbody, can you please tell the court your current occupation?"

He stared at the lawyer's big glasses and blue hair intently. His testimony would be a key part of the case in order to make it credible, and, hopefully, to arouse public sentiment. Part of the trial also served as public relations for what they were saying. This could be a test case for other places across the country or even the world.

"Certainly. I'm a machinist who works in the old mill on the West side of Trolberg." Mr. Rohn came closer. He wanted establish this man's credibility. Re-adjusting his maroon tie, he continued the questioning. "Have you ever entered the Trolberg Public Library?" The man smiled. "Yes, I have."

With his blue hair shining in the light, he almost snickered. He had a plan to turn this around, to get people to sympathize with Mr. Goodbody. "What were the circumstances you last visited the library?" He sighed. He didn't entirely feel proud of this story. He decided to tell the court the words as Mr. Rohn had coached him to say. "I was returning a book I had checked out about rebuilding a car. When I approached the information desk, I saw some books on a cart about witchcraft, reviving the dead, caring for your body, and *magic*."

"What did you do next, Mr. Goodbody?" He looked toward the jury as Mr. Rohn had instructed him prior to the trial. He was doing what he had been told. He thought it was the right thing to do. "I demanded to know why *these books* were in a library that my hard-earned taxes paid for. The librarian slammed down a paper in front of me, telling me to fill it out if there were any books I objected to. I filled it out right then and there, and walked out. I haven't been back to *that place* since." Mr. Rohn had a follow-up question.

"What was your rationale for not liking these books, Mr. Goodbody?" He smiled. He knew what to say. "Why, they are items not suited for a library that *children* go to, or any library, showing the library is pushing a certain viewpoint by keeping these damn books. I felt she was trying to dismiss me by giving this paper. I felt that she didn't listen to me and wanted me to leave." Mr. Rohn felt satisfied with this first part of the trial. The stage was set. He was confident in his victory. "No further questions, your honor." He motioned to Candace. "Your witness." She had something planned.

She came up to the witness box. "Mr. Goodbody, you said that returning a book and receiving a book complaint form was the last time you were in the Trolberg Public Library. Is that correct?" He nodded. She held up a disc in her hand. "I would like to submit evidence on this disc showing one Mr. Goodbody at the library after that time." Mr. Rohn was stunned. How was she doing this? Where was this evidence coming from? "Objection! We have not seen this evidence. We have not had time to review it." Asako looked over at Candace. She wanted answers. "Ms. Flynn, can you respond to Mr. Rohn's claim. Is it accurate? I will rule on Mr. Rohn's objection after your response."

"Your honor, it is a video clip posted on Glitter and it was obtained through a social media search. The public nature of this information, which anyone with or without an account can access, means this evidence did not need to be shared with the plaintiffs prior to today. They could have found it on their own. The evidence is *vital* to my case." Asako looked over at Mr. Rohn and then back at Candace. She sighed. She knew this ruling might be controversial, but she cared little about that. "Objection overruled. The video clip can be played." Mr. Rohn was shocked. He wasn't prepared for this ruling. Mr. Goodbody was worried. He could already guess what the clip would have him saying.

Placing the laserdisc into a plastic tray, the court secretary closed the tray and soon pulled the file up on her computer, then projected it. The clip was only a minute long. Mr. Goodbody was yelling and asking every person entering the library to sign a petition calling for Kaisa to be fired as a librarian, the library to be privatized, and for all objectionable books to be removed from the library immediately, with oversight from parents. He could be heard shouting, "We don't want any commies telling our children what to read! Enough with the magic and the changing genders. *We* should be the ones deciding what our children consume, not these unelected bureaucrats in their ivory tower!" Some people were cheering. Most people tried to avoid the aggressive petition-gatherer and the protesters. They only wanted to go inside the library, as they always did. They saw him, and the crowd around him, rightly, as violent and unhinged.

The video came to an end. The screen was taken away. The secretary kept the disc on her desk for safekeeping, as it was now part of the court's evidence. Candace continued her questioning. "As the jury can see, Mr. Goodbody is in this video and is protesting outside the library. This contradicts his previous statement that he did not visit the library after an interaction with Miss Kaisa." Mr. Rohn was incensed. His case was falling apart thanks to this video. As a result, people could conclude that Mr. Goodbody was out of control and did not know what in the world he was talking about. This wasn't looking good. "Objection! Speculation." In order to be fair, Asako sighed. She couldn't always rule in Candace's favor. "Sustained. The judge reminds lawyers to not engage in speculation."

Candace expected this possible result. She decided to question Mr. Goodbody directly. "You were the man in that video, correct?" He replied with one simple word: "Yes." She continued along this line of questioning. "You previously testified that the last time you visited the Trolberg Public Library was when you interacted with Miss Kaisa. Your present testimony contradicts that claim. Care to explain?" Mr. Goodbody was shaking. Mr. Rohn didn't care to help him, crossing his arms. He decided to tell the truth, even if it resulted in problems for his case. He was bit annoyed with Mr. Rohn.

"I may have not been *entirely* accurate with what I told Mr. Rohn. I...did visit the library after that time, but I did not go back inside. I'd rather never interact with *that damn witch* again. She's scum."

His words were jarring. Mr. Rohn put his head in his hands. He could see that he might soon lose the case, so he was getting worried. With his angry expression and not caring to help him at all, Mr. Goodbody added, without any prompting, "Mr. Rohn told me to say what I did. He said it would help me make my case more compelling."

Candace went in for the kill. Mr. Rohn was horrified. He couldn't imagine *one of his clients* turning on him! This was certainly *unacceptable.* He'd have to go after him later for this *transgression*. "Did Mr. Rohn coach you on what to say at this trial?" Looking around and afraid of what to say, fearing the consequences, he weakly uttered, "Yes he did. He did it with all three of us." Candace smiled. She turned toward the judge. "That is all for my questioning, your honor." She walked back to the table where she sat beside Kaisa, who was still shaking after seeing the video.

Asako turned to Mr. Rohn. Although she could see that his case was in trouble, she knew that the trial had to go on. They had to come to some resolution. "Mr. Rohn, do you have any further questions for Mr. Goodbody?" He nodded, then added, "I do not." As Mr. Goodbody walked back to the bench, Mr. Rohn looked at him with an annoyed expression. Talking with his clients, he came up with a new strategy. "I have no further questions. I would like to question the defense's witnesses instead. I will not be calling any further witnesses." Asako found this curious. What could this blue-haired lawyer be planning? "Certainly, we will honor your request. Ms. Flynn, please call your next witness."

She whispered to Kaisa, saying it would be okay, and that they would be fine. She did not need to worry. She held her hand and smiled. Kaisa grinned back, not knowing what to say. "I would like to call Miss Kaisa to the stand." As she walked up to the stand, she repeated the same oath that Mr. Goodbody had to take before his testimony. Candace began the questioning. She would be a key witness.

Approaching the stand, she wasn't wearing her typical outfit, consisting of a grey sweater vest, a white blouse, grey leggings, and a black skirt, topped off with a black cloak around her shoulders. With help from Hilda's mother, Johanna, who she had become relatively close with in recent days, partially due to Johanna accompanying her daughter to the library since she worried about her safety with all the reactionaries around, she borrowed a nice suit. She still had on her white blouse. Instead of her other clothes, she wore a black tie, a nice-tailored oxford shirt, and khakis. She wasn't wearing any headphones. Even so, her hair color was still a mix of purple and black. That had not changed.

After sitting down in the witness box, Candace began asking her questions. "Have you seen Mr. Goodbody in the library before?" Kaisa nodded. She was still a bit shaken by the video she had watched earlier. She did all she could to regain her composure. Candace then asked the key question. "When it comes to the Trolberg library, what is the policy on removal of books and other materials?"

This was the question Kaisa had been waiting for. She had worked with other librarians to come up with an exact answer, so she could serve as a good spokesperson for them. She didn't want to let them down. Speaking in her typical accent, a mix of various Northern cultures, she said confidentially, "the Trolberg library supports the freedom to read for all of Trolberg's citizens, allowing them to access books reflecting their own experiences, and read about identities and experiences different from what they go through. All citizens are entitled to select books that they want. The library works with educators, parents, and other concerned individuals. Anyone who wishes to object to a certain book in our collections can file an objection form, available at the library's information desk."

Knowing that Kaisa was doing a good job, Candace followed up. She had to ask about how books were organized within the library. This would strengthen their case. "Miss Kaisa, how does the library categorize books? Is there a certain system in place?" She was happy to answer this question as well. She didn't mind. Her answer would be key. "Obviously, not all reading materials are appropriate for everyone. That is common knowledge. The library does not, and never has contained, pornographic material, which depicts certain sexual behaviors and is intended to cause one's sexual excitement. in our collections. Organization of the Trolberg library collections is informed by the Library of Congress's classification system, the Dewey Decimal system, and others. Our library organizational system reflects unique aspects of our collections."

Candace had one question that would get the heart of Mr. Goodbody's objection. She wanted to make Kaisa's position crystal clear. She had to. "Miss Kaisa, does the library have a certain 'agenda' when it comes to provision of materials to Trolberg's citizens?" She shook her head. She had to stop herself from laughing at this question. She wanted to take it as seriously as she could. "No, the library aims to provide all people in the city with access to information and ideas. In fact, the library does not support any effort to censor reading material, nor do we believe that any parent has the right or ability to ban or restrict access of ideas or information they disagree with, from everyone."

Without any prompting, Kaisa breathed deeply. She knew this would get uncomfortable, but she had to say it. She had to make herself clear. "The Trolberg Library does not support any banning of books, or materials, within our collections. We are not a 'neutral' institution because neutrality does not exist. It is an inappropriate ideal. We are there to protect the institution, our patrons, and be a place to make accurate information available. We have policies on reconsideration, and challenges to, books and other materials available to all patrons, which are kept up-to-date. We will *not* relocate or remove material in response to a request from a parent, or any individual, *without* a through review."

To her, that seemed like a strong enough response. Candace went back to the defense's table and grabbed a stack of papers. She walked up to Asako. "Your honor, I submit to you additional evidence, particularly testimonies of various Trolberg citizens attesting to the good

character of Miss Kaisa and the importance of the library to their lives, along with letters from other organizations such as the Trolberg Citizens Against Book Bans and the Trolberg Library Appreciation Society, which speak to the same topics." As judge, Asako could accept or dismiss this evidence. She did not want to cast it aside. She slammed down her gavel. "Thank you, Ms. Flynn. The testimonies have been accepted and will be used in consideration of this case."

Feeling she had answered her questions, Candace sat down. "I have no further questions at this time," she declared. It was time for the blue-haired lawyer to shine again. He began his cross-examination. It was his right under the trial. "Miss Kaisa, you said that the Trolberg Library is not neutral." He pulled out his handy law dictionary, adding, "Being neutral means taking no side in a dispute and being not engaged in contests between others with the state of taking no part on either side is what neutrality means. Is this not what Trolberg Library does?"

She shook her head and sighed. This would be tough. She had to answer this the best she could. "In an ideal world, neutrality could be a goal. Those who sadly oppose our wonderful library are certainly 'political,' and we are the same, but in a different way. Keeping information accessible, educating patrons, and making sure we are not driving people away are vital. We have nothing to hide."

The blue-haired lawyer grinned, almost evilly. He was trying to pin this on Kaisa, the best he could. He snarled, declaring, "Okay, Miss Kaisa, do parents not have rights to determine what their children read? Isn't that their right as parents?" This was a question that she didn't want to answer. But she had to answer it. She could not ignore it. "Parents can surely tell their children what they'd like them to read. At the same time, they have an obligation to protect young people under their care and respect the rights of those people. The Trolberg Library will never follow the viewpoint of those who want to ban books, or other materials, within our library. We will not throw out or remove books only because someone thinks they are not appropriate for a certain age, gender, or whatnot. Rather, we will consider each request *on its own*."

Unfortunately for her, the lawyer wasn't done. He had more questions to ask. He aimed to go in for the kill. "Miss Kaisa, you said that the Trolberg Library has pornographic material in the library's collections. How do you determine what means? What definition do you use? How can you know Mr. Goodbody is wrong when he says a book is pornographic?" Kaisa knew of other places where library boards has threatened libraries, declaring that legal action would ensue if they did not remove titles said to be pornographic, or those flagged by local parents, and said to be *potentially* inappropriate. Some places had feared retribution so much that they took engaged in self-censorship, pulling books they thought would cause controversy in a similar way, often quietly to avoid retaliation. She struggled to answer.

"Let me make it absolutely clear. The library does not have pornographic material. We work with accredited scholars and organizations which specialize in this material. The Trolberg Library needs to reflect the wonderful diversity of the world. Any items in our collections will not have warnings or notices on their sides. Patrons can judge the materials on their own." The blue-haired lawyer growled. He didn't like how definitive she was being in her

answers. He couldn't pin her on this issue. He still tried to get something on her. It was his job as the lawyer for the plaintiffs after all.

"Miss Kaisa, I have one more question for you. Your lawyer, Miss Flynn said that my client violated the library's rules. Can you please clarify what he violated? Does he not have the right to petition outside of a library? Is that not his free expression?" This was another tough question. She would still try to answer it. She hoped this was the last one of these questions. She hoped this would all be over. This was not easy. "You are correct that he does have the right to freely protest and pamphleteer outside the library. That was not the issue. He was aggressively harassing patrons near the door and making some patrons afraid to come into the library. There is a difference between speaking your mind and threatening other people. The library will not tolerate, and has never tolerated, threats of violence or harassment of any kind. We are fully, and completely, opposed to that."

Angry at how this had turned out, he huffed and puffed. He knew that any other questions would be a waste of time. He went back to the table where he was sitting with his client. His voice bellowed. "No more questions at this time." Pointing to Candace, he said, "Miss Flynn, your witness." She nodded. She was glad for Kaisa's case that this was over. But, she had one more witness to call. "I have no further questions for Miss Kaisa. I am calling the next witness, Miss Joanna, to the stand, the Executive Director of the Trolberg Library Appreciation Society." The blue-haired lawyer had not guessed she'd be called, but he was ready to ask any other questions in an effort to trip her up in some way, shape, or form. That's what he had been paid to do, and so far, Mr. Goodbody was not happy at the results.

Johanna took her oath, the same one which Kaisa and Mr. Goodbody had taken. Candace began with her questions. "Miss Johanna, will you please explain your interactions with Miss Kaisa, and the library, here in Trolberg." As composed as she could be, she attempted to answer. It was the least she could do. She tried her best to not express any emotion toward Kaisa, so as to not bias the case in any manner.

"When the recent trouble started, I started traveling to the library with my daughter, Hilda. We moved from the country into the city. The library is a place that she can belong. I met Miss Kaisa there and have seen her there ever since." That was the kind of answer that Candace was looking for. She knew that bringing in someone like Johanna would help bolster her case. Why not bring in someone who is caring and supportive of her daughter? She had a sense that she sometimes worried *too much* about Hilda. Even so, she also knew that they had a good relationship.

"Have you met Mr. Goodbody before?" Johanna nodded, with a clearly pained and concerned expression on her face. She didn't like talking about this, but she knew she had to. She decided to be completely honest, without any filters, or anything. "Yes and he's totally full of rubbish. His lawyer may talk about free speech and all, but I'm under no obligation to respect what he is saying. What he is calling for makes no bloody sense. It's bollocks. Who wants to fire a librarian who cares about their community? Who wants to privatize the library? What even are 'objectionable' books? Why must there be oversight of parents? Some parents are good, and some are bad. You can't say parents are universally good people." She knew this might ruffle some feathers. She didn't care. She had to say it.

People in the crowd started cheering. Some started to put up their signs which said "protect children's rights," "We care about our libraries," "Diversity matters," and "Inclusion matters," among many other similar messages.. What Johanna said was shared by many people across the town. They felt that the book challenges by Mr. Goodbody were old fashioned and dated, and that he was clearly off his rocker. Only a small number of people thought that books in the library were promoting some vile agenda and aiming to groom people. Most people didn't believe that. They respected Kaisa and the library, and stood by them. There had been some cases of certain reactionaries stealing books from libraries to make them disappear, books they hated. Luckily, that wasn't the case in Trolberg.

Asako banged the gavel. She supported the messages, but she had to keep order in the court. She couldn't make it seem like the court was being swayed. "Order in the court!" she shouted. Standing there in her still-attractive lawyer suit, Candace asserted herself yet again, as the signs were put down. Silence prevailed across the room. The redhead had to ask something to close out this case.

"Miss Johanna, do you agree with Miss Kaisa's assertion that the library is not a neutral institution? Should it be? Should it be taking sides in disputes?" Johanna let out a hearty laugh. What a question! She wouldn't approach it as diplomatically or tactfully as the librarian had. "She is right, but there's more to it. Everything we do in our daily lives is political. Every single damn decision. The same is the case with the library. Some cling to neutrality to support terrible policies, but we cannot let that happen. Not at all."

Spectators cheered again, causing Asako to bang the gavel. The blue-haired lawyer was so distraught. He had given up. When Candace said "your witness," he waved it off. "We will not be asking any questions of this witness. The plaintiffs rest." This surprised her. She expected that they would ask some questions to trip up Johanna. That was not to be. She was not sure what they were up to, but she guessed it wouldn't be good, to say the least. They went into closing arguments after Candace said that the defense had rested. She was ready to win this case, no matter what. *She would win.*

The blue-haired lawyer began speaking, walking toward the jury. "Esteemed jury, I humbly ask you to restore citizens' rights to libraries and the neutrality of this hallowed institution, which is keeping objectionable books and promoting a certain agenda. Please impose the harshest possible punishment. That is all." Candace had much more to say than he did. She had to protect the city of Trolberg, and its residents, from this attempt at book censorship, to be proactive against these reactionaries. She passionately shared her statement:

> Your esteemed excellencies, it has been proven here today that Miss Kaisa supports the right of all Trolberg residents to read. No so-called objectionable books have been kept in the public library, no agenda has been promoted. Mr. Goodbody violated stated and posted rules of a place that is open to all, a place that helps educate everyone who lives within out wonderful city. We ask that the jury here today vote to drop charges unfairly levied against Miss Kaisa and in favor of the people of Trolberg. Thank you for your time and attention.

Asako spoke next. She was usually sharp-witted and at times sarcastic, even with a bad mouth but she kept that under wraps for now. Instead, her handsome and good-looking

features stood out. She had been chosen not because she was in her early 20s, but due to the fact she was a first-class librarian with quick abilities to gather information and great tact. That mattered. "The jury will begin their deliberations." She then gave further instructions to the jury before they left to the room to talk about the case. They were a diverse group, first consisting of a scholarly Japanese male librarian with green blazer, and a White female librarian with a blue blazer, glasses, and grey hair tied up in a bun.

Others were much younger. One was a high school girl who was often lustful, flirtatious, oversexed, but also vain. She was unabashed at flaunting her looks in public and had worked in the library from time to time. Her name was Yamada. She had absurdly wanted to have sex with 100 guys when going into high school. This, of course, this never happened. By the end of the year, she had ended up only focusing on one young man. Another was a woman with long blond hair, red earrings (like little gumdrops), nice smile, blue eyes, light purple top with short sleeves, red bet, purple skirt, white knee-high socks, white and black shoes. She was named Sarah. There was a young woman who could be cynical and stern toward those the same age as her. She was sweet and patient toward younger children.

That young woman was named Amity Blight. She even had a private study room given to her by the head librarian, allowing her to get away from her complicated life at home. A human had tried to befriend her, and even caused chaos in the library, with her two older siblings. It took her time to get close to that woman. Lastly, there was Clara Rhone, who ran the Stanza in the Wayne. She had a gentle and smoothing nature. She could be perturbed by certain individuals at times. Clara was the jury foreperson. She led them all into the room set aside for deliberations. The door closed, ensuring no one could hear them.

After about an hour and half of deliberations, the jury re-entered. Clara had written something on a piece of paper. Everyone awaited the response, of these six jurors, and their ruling. Asako stared at Clara. "Has the jury come to a verdict?" Clara nodded. She unfolded her paper and began reading it:

> The jury finds, unanimously, that the plaintiff's charges are faulty. He clearly violated the library's rules. Miss Kaisa did what she could as a librarian. The library was concerned about the safety of its patrons. The library had forms available for challenges to books and other materials. Any charges against Miss Kaisa are voided. We further state that Mr. Goodbody, and the other plaintiffs, must publicly apologize to the city of Trolberg, the library, and Miss Kaisa, and pay monetary damages for the emotional and mental distress caused by his actions. Any further consequences can be determined by the city, and library, as it deems fit in its capacities.

The blue-haired lawyer, and those he represented, were disappointed. Asako did not want to speak much on this case, but she had a short statement. She knew from Iku that her decision had caused consternation. She guessed that this one would not do so. She cleared her throat. She had something to say:

> I appreciate Mr. Goodbody, Miss Johanna, and Miss Kaisa for giving testimony, plus the other written depositions. They certainly helped make the facts of this case clear. Mr. Goodbody was wholly and completely wrong on this case. No one has a right to harass

> and threaten patrons and library staff. That is wholly unacceptable. I urge the plaintiffs to learn their error of judgment and to accept the results of this case without any issue.

Her gavel hit the table. "The plaintiffs' charges, and their case, is *dismissed*. The plaintiffs are ordered to pay monetary damages and issue a public apology as the jury stated."

Asako did not leave the courtroom in the way that Iku had. She left with little fanfare. She saluted everyone, stood up, and walked out of a side door. Once outside, she took off her judges uniform, ripping it to shreds. Underneath was her typical white uniform. She had to return to the Kanto Library base. Iku had just texted her. "I'll be waiting for you back at the base." Asako smiled joyfully as she jumped in a military helicopter which took off. Inside the courtroom people were cheering. A Trolberg government official stepped forward to everyone's surprise. He didn't have a prepared statement. The mayor has spoken to him.

> The government of Trolberg is announcing today that the monetary damages owed by Mr. Goodbody, and the other two plaintiffs, will be negotiated in cooperation with those that his actions, and that of his compatriots, affected. We are beginning proceedings to ban him permanently from town residence. He is hereby banned from entry into any public facility in the city of Trolberg.

The blue-haired lawyer was shocked, as were his clients. They never knew it would go this far. They had lost *so badly* it wasn't even funny. This case certainly, without any doubt, set a precedent for other cases against book banning, or more broadly book censorship. It could even, easily, be cited outside of the librarian tribunal. As the case ended and everyone went their separate ways, reporters asked some of those involved their thoughts in the results, particularly Candace. She was happy to answer questions.

Kaisa soon found herself in front of the apartment unit where Hilda and Johanna lived. Hilda had gone out on some adventures, with the proviso that she had to be with her friends the entire time, and checked in with where she was. She agreed to that. She didn't want to cause a rift with her mum, as she called her. She knocked on the door. Johanna gladly let her in. "Why don't we have some tea?" Kaisa smiled.

She wanted to kick back after this rough trial. She even began crying, her tears streaming down her cheeks, with Johanna hugging her back. Their closeness hadn't become romantic in any way. Even so, they had certainly developed a deeper emotional connection than they had previously. They confided their worries in one another, *especially* when Hilda wasn't around. That's what they did as friends. Where their friendship went from here, and whether it became more romantic, going forward, or became a close queerplatonic friendship, was completely up to them.

No matter what, the librarian tribunal would continue onward, with many other cases ahead. The Library Force would be ready to preside over them and show what it meant to defend the books from ne'er-do-wells...

End Notes

This fic uses information from various sources like My Anime List (also this page on the same site) and aniDB were helpful in informing this fic, plus the official Library War website (when translated into English), the Kaisa page on the Hilda Wiki, the "Clara Rhone" page on the Welcome to the Wayne fandom wiki, the "Amity Blight" page on The Owl House wiki, the Behind the Voice Actors page for Sarah of Too Loud, a screenshot of Sarah in the Too Loud episode "New Girl In Town, Behind the Voice Actors page for Blue-Haired Lawyer, along with other sources. The Futurama Librarian character in this fic appears in the episode "The Day the Earth Stood Stupid" while the Librarian character in Revolutionary Girl Utena in this fic appears in the episode "The Sunlit Garden – Prelude" and possibly in "Mitsuru's Growing Pains." This fic is loosely inspired by the fic "Defending Tony." There are some Utena fics which feature a library, including a few I have written, but none of them featuring the librarian character.

This is the third fic for the entire Too Loud! Fandom and one of the few fics for the Welcome to the Wayne and B Gata H Kei fandoms. In the Phineas and Ferb episode "Act Your Age," Candace studied law and saying, "and that concludes my dissertation on modern investigative techniques for establishing proof of guilt with or without physical evidence." I chose the name Rohn for the Blue-Haired Lawyer because he is based on Roy Cohn as noted on the Simpsons Wiki page "Blue-haired lawyer."

The definitions of neutrality in this fic are based upon page 482 of Black's Law Dictionary Third Pocket Edition and Wiktionary. Otherwise, the note on the epilogue to the fic "By the bushel: A love story for Data," by Earl_grey_hot says "disregard for children's personhood is a big part of the anti-trans and Parent's Rights book banning stuff-- we treat children as Property of their parents and don't count them as whole people. It makes for passive citizens and sets the stage for controlling other 'childlike' people...people in economically 'backward' countries, Employees (vs Employers), countries that aren't "ready for democracy yet' etc." Those words were a bit of an inspiration for parts of this fic.

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